SRC-05-21-93-M

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting of Friday, May 21, 1993
Room BC-110, 12:00

Present: P. Bird, **T. Bui (Chair),** A.B. Ibrahim, P. Lightbown, K. Lipke, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, P. Shizgal, T. Sankar, K. Thulasiraman, A. Williams

Regrets: U. De Brentani, C. Suen

Absent: S. Chowdhury, A. Homzy, C. Nero, A. Zaidi

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In advance

SRC-05-21-93-D1 Proposed Policy Statement on Educational Equity at Concordia (US-93-6-D7)

SRC-05-21-93-D2 Plan de développement 1993-1996, Conseil québécois de la recherche sociale

At the Meeting

SRC-05-21-93-D3 Procedural Guidelines for Periodic Appraisal of Research Centres

SRC-05-21-93-D4 Concordia University - Revised Proposal 1993 - 1994, Operating Budget (US-93-6-D1)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda.

The agenda was approved unanimously by the Committee.

2. Approval of Minutes.

P. Lightbown made some editorial changes to the Minutes.

The minutes for the meeting of April 30 were approved.

3. Business arising from Minutes

Chair reported that after having met with Dr. M. Renaud of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR), he is collecting CV's of researchers from CSBN and CRDH and will forward them to Dr. M. Renaud, along with a report on "research in the Department of Economics" assembled by Dr. G.R. Fisher.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair reported that the document Restructuring the Office of Research Services has been approved by SCAPP. He has been asked by the Chair of SCAPP to attend the next Senate Meeting when the document will be presented. The Chair will not be able to attend as he will be out of the country, he asked committee members if anyone would be able to attend. As no committee member would be available that particular day, the Secretary of Senate will be so informed.

Chair informed committee members that the Search Committee for Associate Director, ORS has not selected the candidate yet. A meeting will be held in early June to interview two additional candidates.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

A. Williams reported the following:

1) There were three additional FCAR Team awards made (two are from Engineering and one from Arts & Science). As a result the success rate for FCAR-Team awards has increased from 27.3% to 41%.

2) FCAR Nouveaux Chercheurs, 29 applications, 12 have been received (9 from Arts and Science and 3 from Engineering and Computer Science). The success rate is 41%. It would appear that the FRDP is having a positive effect.

3) Statistical data were received from SSHRC, Concordia ranks 5th in the province and 13th across the country in research grants awarded.

(4) CQRS - We will have a representative from Concordia University on the Board of CQRS, Dr. Francis Shaver in the Sociology Department.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

(5) Conseil des Universités no longer exists and the comité de recherche has also been abolished.

A copy of the document 'Abolition du Conseil des Universités' should be sent to members of the committee.

P. Bird thanked Audrey Williams for all her contributions which was unanimously approved by the committee.

6. Question Period

None

7. a) Procedural Guidelines for Periodic Appraisal of Research Centres

The Chair informed the Committee that the document will be presented to Senate during the next academic year.

Sankar indicated that the Directors of the Centres should be aware of the document and make recommendation within their faculties. It was suggested that the Chair call a meeting of all the Centre Directors to discuss the best approach and to identify not only the appraisal process but also the resources allocation.

Chair noted that he did not mind having a meeting with the Directors, however the primary concern was to establish the best appraisal process for research centres.

Shizgal noted that what we are talking about is the process of evaluation. We have a situation where there are certain groups carrying the name of the institution and are officially recognised. Everywhere in the institution whether academic or service side, when a unit goes through an appraisal process, it is asked to define what it is, what it is going to do, etc. There are some agencies such as FCAR requires that research centre structure be independent from academic structure, FCAR does not fund academic units'.

Chair remarked that the Networks of Centres of Excellence are for 4 years, FCAR Centres are for 3 years before they are reviewed for renewal, whereas university centres, once approved by the Board, there is no restriction period.

Markiewcz suggested that some statements, some outlines about how this should be integrated in the academic appraisal process be added to the document.

7. a) Procedural Guidelines for Periodic Appraisal of Research Centres

Sankar questioned whether we are doing the appraisal because it has to be appraised? He expressed some negative feelings and concerns among faculty members regarding the academic appraisal process.

The Chair noted that an Adhoc Committee of SCAPP chaired by R. Parker is working on a planning and budgeting process toward a 5 year rolling budget. We have to know where we stand and where we are going in order to plan properly.

7. b) Proposed Policy Statement on Educational Equity at Concordia.

Markiewicz suggested that this document should be sent to Graduate Studies.

7. c) Review of the functioning of the SRC

Chair stated that it is important for the committee to discuss the SRC mandate and what should be done in the coming years.

Sankar stated that the committee was established essentially as part of the reform of Senate. SRC must be both proactive and active.

Chair suggested that maybe it is time to look at the mandate of the Committee, to be tabled for the next meeting in September.

A copy of the mandate should be distributed to the committee members.

Shizgal suggested that we should compile a list of major initiative of the committee and what has been accomplished, various representations, unfinished business etc.

8. For information only:

a. Plan de développement 1993-1996, Conseil québécois de la recherche sociale.

9. Varia

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.